

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, at 12 o'clock noon. For program see Congressional Program Ahead in this DIGEST.

Committee Meetings

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION

Committee on Agriculture: Continued on subject of agricultural conservation in general, and heard the following witnesses who approved flood-control and flood-prevention measures, and urged coordination in connection with the various programs—Representatives Talle, of Iowa, Miller and Scrivener of Kansas, and Deane, of North Carolina; and C. M. Granger, of the American Forestry Association. Will continue on the same subject Monday when representatives of watershed associations will be heard.

MILITARY REAL ESTATE

Committee on Armed Services: The Cunningham Subcommittee on Acquisitions and Disposals considered, but took no final action on, two real-estate projects—Carswell Air Force Base, Tex.; and Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. Testifying on these projects were Maj. Gen. Lee Washbourne, Director of Installations, Air Force; and Col. Joseph Friedlander, Deputy Chief, Real Estate Division, and Col. C. J. Kjeldseth. In an executive hearing on classified construction the subcommittee heard testimony from Brig. Gen. Stanley T. Wray, Deputy Director of Installations, Air Force; and Col. E. J. Fletcher, Chief of the Overseas Construction Branch, Air Force. Recessed until Monday morning.

TAFT-HARTLEY LAW

Committee on Education and Labor: Concluded public hearings on proposed amendments and revisions to the Labor-Management Relations Act of 1947. These hearings, which began on February 10, have received the views and testimony of 144 witnesses. While the committee intends to start the executive marking up of the final draft of a bill to be reported, Chairman McConnell stated that a deadline of May 15 has been set for interested parties to submit statements for incorporation in the printed record of the hearings. At the final open session today, George J. Bott, General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, discussed the varied problems facing the Board, and stated that much of the criticism which has been directed toward the Board by recent witnesses is not surprising—"that an agency charged by Congress with the responsibility for issuing and prosecuting complaints against unions and em-

ployers, when their conduct exceeds legislative limitations, should be the target of criticism by parties against whom decisions are eventually rendered." He also stated that in cases of criticisms of personal conduct of NLRB employees, appropriate steps were taken to deal with them, and that in the 5½ years under the present law approximately 20 regional field office employees have left the agency as a result of this processing. He also presented an outline and analysis of several cases that have been singled out for complaint, and presented the Board's proceedings used toward their evaluation. He added that of the approximately 130,000 cases filed in regional offices since the inception of the act, that about 30,000 were charges of unfair labor practices, and the remainder were election cases. Paul Styles, Acting Chairman of the Board, and other NLRB officials were in attendance as the committee continued its questioning of Board activities and functions in a night session. The date for executive marking up of the bill to be reported will be announced later.

MUTUAL SECURITY

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Met in executive session this morning with Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson. The Secretary discussed the military portions of the mutual security bill now before the committee. He was questioned on the fiscal status of the funds previously voted for the program and inquired into the proposals contained in the next year's program. The Secretary stressed the fact that he and his assistants were scrutinizing all parts of the program for which money has been appropriated but not yet obligated. In doing this, Secretary Wilson pointed out he was in no way criticizing the previous administration but only giving it the "fresh look" to which the new administration is committed.

Recessed until Monday morning for further consideration of the mutual security program.

PUBLIC LANDS

Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs: The Subcommittee on Public Lands considered and approved for reporting to the full committee the following—

H. R. 2779, a private bill, which was explained by its author, Representative Engle, and Herman Lieberman, legislative attorney, Bureau of Land Management;

H. R. 3581, to facilitate public participation of sites, buildings, and objects of national significance and interest; with supporting testimony being furnished by Dr. David Finley, Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts, and the Director of the National Gallery of Art; and Ronald Lee, Assistant Director of the Park Service;

H. R. 3956, a private bill, which was supported by Frederick W. Grover, Chief of Division of Land

Acquisition (Forest Service), while Representative Dempsey's explanation of his measure was read by Harry E. Shuart, legislative assistant;

H. R. 3986 (amended), to authorize appropriation of additional funds to complete the International Peace Garden, N. Dak., with S. Hugh Farrington, administrative assistant to Representative Krueger, author of the bill, reading a statement of explanation; and

S. 1545, authorizing conveyance and exchange of burial lots in Washington Parish Burial Grounds (D. C.), with House bill, H. R. 4519, being tabled. This bill was supported by Chauncey B. Schmeltzer, Office of Assistant Chief of Engineers for Real Estate (Army).

The subcommittee also received testimony, but took no final action on H. R. 998, Federal patent to State of Idaho for certain land; H. R. 1705, a private bill; and H. R. 4816, a private bill. W. L. Mills, secretary to Representative Budge, spoke in support of H. R. 998, and Mr. Lieberman, of the Land Management Bureau, explained H. R. 998 and 1705.

The subcommittee also tabled H. R. 3913, a comparable bill to H. R. 3986. This bill was explained by its author, Representative Burdick.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce: Ordered the following bills reported to the House without amendment—

H. R. 4557, to permit construction of radio stations, and granting authority to the FCC to waive the requirement of a construction permit;

H. R. 4558, relating to the time within which the FCC must act on protests filed thereunder; and

H. R. 4559, relating to offenses or penalties under the Federal Communications Act.

Prior to the above action, which was taken in executive session, Rosel H. Hyde, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, testified on the three bills.

FLAMMABLE FABRICS

Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce: Ordered reported to the House H. R. 5069 (a new bill introduced by Chairman Wolverton), to prohibit the introduction or movement in interstate commerce of arti-

cles of wearing apparel and fabrics which are so highly flammable as to be dangerous when worn by individuals.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: The Keating subcommittee which has been investigating the administration of the Department of Justice resumed hearings regarding charges of interference by the Departments of Justice and State with a report from a Federal grand jury in New York. This grand jury was discharged in December of last year after handing up a presentment concerning Communist infiltration in the United Nations. Testimony was received from William L. Franklin, Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Security, State Department; and John W. Ford, Director of Security. These witnesses testified on March 23 and 26, respectively, when the hearings first started. Others called at today's session were Henry Cabot Lodge, U. S. representative to the United Nations; George M. Ingram, Director of Office of International Administration and Conferences, State Department; and James W. Amshey, former Chief, Evaluation Bureau, in the Division of Security. Subcommittee recessed until Tuesday afternoon.

CIVIL SERVICE

Committee on Post Office and Civil Service: The Subcommittee on the Federal Civil Service announced today that it will make a study and analysis of the function of the Civil Service Commission and the manner in which it carries out certain procedures. Special attention is to be given to examining, recruiting, certifying, and blanketing-in procedures. Other subjects suggested for consideration are promotion systems, job classifications, and welfare services. In a statement regarding the proposed study, Subcommittee Chairman Hagen said: "I should like to emphasize that it is not the intention of the subcommittee, in conducting its study of the Federal civil service, to reflect adversely on the present Civil Service Commission. I feel that the present Chairman and associate members of the Commission have brought with them a most forthright and vigorous approach to the complex problem of Federal Civil Service administration, and have demonstrated a wide knowledge as well as varied experience in both public and private personnel management."

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Senate Chamber

(Week of May 11-16)

Senate will not be in session on Monday; on Tuesday, Senate will continue on S. 16, immunity of witnesses, to be followed during week by S. 1081, temporary economic controls, ratification of 3 NATO treaties and

confirmation of 10 reported Army nominations in rank of major general, S. Res. 106, increasing limit of Rules Committee expenditures, and possibly S. Res. 97, to discharge Committee on Rules from further consideration of S. Res. 32, temporarily increasing membership of Committees on Armed Services and Labor and Public Welfare.